

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /089 W

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R 221408Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4258

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR KATZ FROM MEISSNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNCTAD, NO

SUBJECT: MEISSNER CONSULTATIONS WITH GON OFFICIALS

1. IN HIS VISIT TO OSLO, MEISSNER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MARTIN HUSLID, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLICY PLANNING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND. THE LATTER VISIT WAS SHORT, INFORMAL AND NONSUBSTANTIVE. MEISSNER'S BASIC PITCH TO BOTH HUSLID AND KLEPPE WAS THAT THE US DESIRES TO HAVE POSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES AND WHILE THE UNCTAD STRUCTURE OF BLOCK NEGOTIATIONS WAS IMPERFECT, THE US IS WILLING TO TRY AND MAKE IT WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY. TO DO SO MEANT FORMING A CONSTRUCTIVE CONSENSUS IN GROUP B. MEISSNER STRESSED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NORWEGIANS WITHIN THAT CONSENSUS PROCESS BECAUSE IN THE PAST WHEN THEY HAVE SPOKEN INDEPENDENTLY FROM GROUP B THEY AIDED THE FORCES OF CONFRONTATION AND NOT CONCILIATION. MEISSNER STRESSED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS ONE OF OPENNESS AND CONSULTATION IN THE HOPE OF BUILDING A BETTER CONSENSUS PROCESS AND THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN BEFORE SIMILAR UNCTAD MEETINGS

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IF BOTH PARTIES FELT IT WAS CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. THE HUSLID CONVERSATION, WHICH LASTED FOR ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS, CENTERED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON COMMODITY ISSUES AND REFLECTED HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UNCTAD AD HOC COMMITTEE. HE AGREED WITH THE MEISSNER PRESENTATION IN PRINCIPLE BUT RESERVED ON THE ISSUE OF NORWEGIAN INDEPENDENCE SAYING HE FELT

THAT CONSENSUS SOLELY FOR THE SAKE OF PRESENTATION WAS NOT ALWAYS GOOD, THAT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN IT WAS BEST FOR SOME INDEPENDENCE. MEISSNER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT FELT THAT THE NORWEGIANS LOST THE INFLUENCE THEY HAD WHEN THE CONSENSUS PROCESS BROKE DOWN. MEISSNER STRESSED IN THE DISCUSSIONS THE DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES TO STAND BEHIND THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE OF SUPPORTING A COMMON FUND PROVIDED THAT IT HAD A SOUND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND WAS NOT AN AID MECHANISM. THIS ASSUMED THAT EACH AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FUND WAS FORMULATED PROPERLY.

3. HUSLID MADE A PLEA TO TURN AWAY FROM RHETORIC AND GET MORE DIRECT COMMITMENTS TO PRINCIPLE BELIEVING THAT THE NOVEMBER COMMON FUND MEETING IN GENEVA WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN THIS MATTER. HE FELT THAT IF PRINCIPLES WERE NOT AGREED TO THE NEGOTIATION WOULD BOG DOWN IN DEBATE BETWEEN TECHNICIANS. WHAT HE FELT WERE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES WERE (A) A CENTRAL AND INDEPENDENT FUND, (B) A SECOND ASSOCIATED FACILITY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AID TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHO WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM THE FUND, (C) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AT LEAST A LIMITED FUND PRIOR TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND (D) OBLIGATORY CONTRIBUTIONS AS THE GROUP D COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO PUT UP FUNDS. MEISSNER LAID OUT THE US POSITION IN GENERAL OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS FIRST AND THEN A FUND GUILT ON SOUND ECONOMICS IF IT WAS FEASIBLE. HE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A LUNCH IN GENEVA ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT MEISSNER WOULD QUERY WASHINGTON ON THE ABOVE FOUR POINTS.

4. THE CONVERSATION WITH KLEPPE LASTED ONE HOUR AND WAS MORE RAMBLING AND DISJOINTED. KLEPPE SAID AFTER A STRONG SPEECH ON STABILIZING COMMODITY PRICES FOR THE LDCS THAT IN REALITY THE BEST THING THE OECD COUNTRIES WOULD DO FOR THE LDCS WAS INCREASE THEIR OWN RATES OF GROWTH. HE FELT THE GERMANS WERE REALLY NOT MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO STIMULATE CONSUMPTION OR GROWTH, THAT INCREASING DEBT BURDENS IN THE WORLD WERE STAGGERING, AND THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE A GOOD DEAL MORE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION THAN THEY WERE SIX MONTHS AGO. KLEPPE MADE A PLEA TO LIMIT THE MULTITUDE OF ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WAS SPLINTERING BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF A SMALL NATION HANDLING THE NUMEROUS MEETINGS.

5. THE KLEPPE PRESENTATION ON DEBT SHOWED A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUE. MEISSNER STRESSED THE US POSITION THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE LDCS INTEREST TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM NOR TO TRY AND USE DEBT AS AN AID MECHANISM. THE US IN EITHER CASE WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED. MEISSNER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IF DEBT WAS DISCUSSED IN UNCTAD THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD

STALEMATE IN RHETORIC AND IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO TRY AND PLACE ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THESE AND OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES IN ONE OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. KLEPPE DID NOT AGREE OR DIS-AGREE.

6. ON UK DISCUSSIONS: UK AGREED WITH US POSITION ON DEBT IN UNCTAD. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THE OCTOBER MEETING IS INEVITABLE AND THEREFORE OUR EFFORTS SHOULD GO INTO PRODUCTIVELY STRUCTURING IT TO FOLLOW 94 (IV) AND NOT IN STOPPING IT. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO LOAD THE JANUARY AGENDA AND BELIEVE ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIALS' MEETING IN EARLY DECEMBER WOULD BE A GOOD VEHICLE TO THIS END.

7. FOR WASHINGTON: I WOULD APPRECIATE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
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A CABLE OUTLINING THE US POSITION ON THE FOUR POINTS RAISED BY HUSLID. IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HUSLID THE CABLE AT LUNCH; HOWEVER, THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. IF NOT, POSSIBLE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND I WILL PASS THESE ON FOR HIS BENEFIT.

LERNER

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